

State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Laboratory Services BRU/Component Budget Summary

BRU/Component: Laboratory Services

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

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Component Mission

The mission of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is to provide forensic science services to law enforcement agencies.

Component Services Provided

- 1) The Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is the only forensic facility available to service all law enforcement in Alaska.
- 2) Forensic services include the scientific examination and detailed analysis of evidence in criminal cases and assistance with crime scene investigations. Laboratory staff provide expert testimony in court regarding the results of the testing of evidence. Staff also provide training to law enforcement officers regarding proper evidence collection and preservation according to the latest forensic techniques.
- 3) The Crime Laboratory administers the Statewide Breath Alcohol Program consisting of repair and certification of breath alcohol test instruments used by all Alaska law enforcement in DWI cases and training and certification of all breath test supervisors and operators.
- 4) The Crime Laboratory maintains Alaska's DNA Identification System. Blood or oral samples from convicted offenders, along with unknown biological evidence collected from crime scenes, are submitted to the Laboratory for DNA typing and entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). These DNA profiles are also added to the FBI's National DNA Index System (NDIS).
- 5) Crime Laboratory personnel have been invited to participate as active members in several organizations that have the responsibility for setting the standards for training and certification of analysts nationally in the various forensic disciplines as well as accreditation standards for crime laboratories as follows:
 - Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) since 1994
 - Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis Study and Technology (SWGFAST) since 1996
 - Scientific Working Group on Firearms and Toolmarks (SWGgun) since 1999
 - American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) since 1996
- 6) The complete 17,000 square foot facility as well as the adjacent 1,000 square foot generator building supplying emergency power to the entire DPS complex are the responsibility of the Laboratory Services budget component.

Component Goals and Strategies

The goal of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is to provide professional forensic science services in a timely and cost effective manner. In order to provide these services, the Laboratory must maintain a trained staff of experts.

Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

The Crime Laboratory has increased from 17 positions in FY1989 to 30 positions in FY2002 without an increase in clerical staff. The workload sustained by the Crime Lab's Administrative Services Unit has increased to the point that the current staff cannot maintain a productive workload. The increase of laboratory positions has increased the number of Workplace Alaska recruitments to fill vacancies and increased the overall administrative duties related to personnel management. More laboratory reports are issued, which in turn has increased case file management. The complexity of the Lab's financial management, including federal grants and capital projects, has increased. Due to the changing

technology of forensic analysis, procurement of new instruments, equipment, and supplies, and management of State property has also increased. The required documentation, annual reviews, and inspections for the Crime Laboratory's continued accreditation requires more work each year. The current administrative staff cannot handle the volume of work generated by these responsibilities. The effects now are a backlog that will continue to grow if an Administrative Clerk II position is not added in FY2003. A new Administrative Clerk II position is being requested under the Homeland Security bill, but if that bill does not pass or is reduced, the need for a new Administrative Clerk II will remain an issue for the Crime Lab.

The Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) sponsors forensic training presented by the Crime Laboratory on location to law enforcement in remote areas. This forensic training would not be available to rural law enforcement without this support, as most small rural Alaska police departments do not have the resources to attend classes in Anchorage. Interagency Receipt of \$9.6 from APSC will fund this training.

Funding for personnel services via a \$51.4 Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Grant from the Alaska State Troopers will provide 75% of the cost of a laboratory position that performs latent fingerprint analysis on cases involving controlled substances as well as crime scene assistance. The Crime Laboratory will provide \$17.1 for the 25% matching funds.

CRIME LAB IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FEDERAL GRANT (Capital Budget Item)

The US Department of Justice awarded a \$1,250,000 federal grant for the Crime Laboratory Improvement Program (CLIP) to the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in FY2001. The CLIP grant, along with a General Fund match (\$416,700) will fund the purchase of lab equipment, training, DNA supplies, and remodel of the autopsy area.

The Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory has received \$350,800 of the \$416,700 match requirement for the \$1,250,000 CLIP federal grant. The remaining \$65,900 needed for the rest of the 25% matching funds is being requested in the FY2003 capital budget.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

The State of Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory achieved accreditation in September 1996, effective through September 2001. This accreditation was provided by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) and is a major achievement. Half of the crime laboratories nationally in states and cities with populations larger than Alaska have not reached this goal. The Crime Lab was inspected by ASCLD/LAB in June and November 2001 and passed the renewal inspection. Accreditation will be renewed for Controlled Substances, Trace Evidence, Serology, DNA, Latent Prints, Firearms/Toolmarks, and Toxicology (Blood Alcohol), and Crime Scenes will be added. The Alaska Crime Laboratory is the first state laboratory system in the United States to be accredited in the crime scenes discipline.

The State of Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory received a federal grant from the National Institute of Justice in FY2001 in the amount of \$80,650 to reduce the backlog of Alaska's convicted offender samples needing DNA analysis for entry into CODIS, the Combined DNA Index System. A contract was awarded to a private DNA laboratory in Dallas, Texas. The first 806 convicted offender samples were sent out for testing. Results from 461 samples were reported back and uploaded into CODIS and the National DNA Index System.

Services provided by the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory during FY2001 include the following:

- 1) Criminalistics:
 - Number of case submittals - 75
 - Number of reports issued - 81
 - a) Firearms/Toolmarks:
 - Number of case submittals - 93
 - Number of reports issued - 68
 - b) Trace Evidence:
 - Number of case submittals - 346
 - Number of reports issued - 280
 - c) Serology/DNA:
 - Number of case submittals - 468
 - Number of reports issued - 332
 - d) DNA Identification System:

- Number of convicted offender samples received - 955
 Number of samples sent to contract lab for analysis - 806
 Number of CODIS entries performed - 461
- 2) Controlled Substances:
 Number of case submittals - 843
 Number of reports issued - 778
 - 3) Toxicology (blood alcohol analysis only):
 Number of case submittals - 153
 Number of reports issued - 139
 - 4) Latent Prints:
 Number of case submittals - 748
 Number of reports issued - 636
 - 5) Crime Scene Investigations:
 Number of major scenes investigated - 35
 Number of reports issued - 28
 - 6) Breath Alcohol Testing Program:
 Number of instruments in service - 89
 Number of DWI test - 5,825
 Number of trained instructors - 94
 Number of trained operators - 1,103
 - 7) Court:
 Number of times testified - 177
 Number of hours away from Lab - 1,106
 - 8) Instruction provided to Law Enforcement:
 Number of classes - 23 (274 attendees)
 Number of hours away from Lab - 1,210

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- 1) DPS - DNA ID System (AS 44.41.035)
- 2) DPS - Fingerprint System (AS 44.41.025)
- 3) DPS - Powers and duties of department (AS 44.41.020)
- 4) State Troopers - Department to assist Other Agencies (AS 18.65.090)
- 5) State Troopers - Fingerprint Information (AS 18.65.050)
- 6) DPS - Forensic Alcohol Testing Regulations (13 AAC 63)

Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

Average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report.
 Sec 126 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

FY01 average time is 99 days
 FY00 average time is 57 days.

A number of factors (see Background and Strategies) in FY01 made it impossible for the Lab to meet the FY00 57 day average turnaround time from receipt of a request to issuance of a laboratory report to law enforcement.

Calculation of the average response time:

TYPE OF ANALYSIS	NUMBER OF DAYS TO ISSUE A REPORT	
	FY00	FY01
Controlled Substances	22	15
Latent Fingerprints	59	137

Toxicology	11	17
Criminalistics	99	126
Firearms/Toolmarks	61	93
Trace Evidence	37	68
Serology	49	70
DNA	153	292
Crime Scene	<u>21</u>	<u>72</u>
Average Days	57	99

Background and Strategies:

The average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report is determined by utilizing a case access program to calculate the number of days between the date a case is received at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory and the date a report is written by an analyst. This task is complicated by the fact that many different types of analyses are performed at the Crime Lab, including: Controlled Substances, Fingerprints, Toxicology (blood alcohol only), Criminalistics (arson, footwear and tire track impressions, physical matching), Trace Evidence (hairs and fibers), Firearms/Toolmarks, Serology, DNA, and Crime Scenes. Once the average reporting time is calculated for each exam type, the overall average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report can be determined.

The increased "average time," experienced in FY01, is due to the following:

- a. many old DNA cases, with no known suspect, were pulled and analyzed with the hope of finding a CODIS match;
- b. new DNA personnel spent most of the year in forensic analysis training necessary to meet required new DNA Quality Assurance Standards;
- c. the same new DNA Quality Assurance Standards required all critical "reagents" (chemicals) used in DNA testing to be verified prior to use (contamination prevention) with the forensic evidence;
- d. all sections spent some time preparing for Lab accreditation (July 2001);
- e. two criminalist positions were vacant in FY01;
- f. two latent examiners resigned during the year;
- g. accommodating DA requests to hold evidence, longer than normal, until decision is made whether to prosecute or not.

Additional resources provided to the Crime Lab in the FY02 budget should reverse the trend that was witnessed between FY00 and FY01.

Measure:

Average cost per case.

Sec 126 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

FY01	\$ 1,420.0
FY00	\$ 1,249.0

Average cost is calculated by dividing the program's authorized budget by the number of cases analyzed in that particular year (FY01 1,700 cases / FY00 1,684 cases)

Background and Strategies:

At the end of the fiscal year, the final authorized level of funding is known and the total number of cases that have been analyzed by the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is compiled. By dividing the Lab's fiscal year budget by the number of cases analyzed in that same fiscal year, the amount derived is the average cost per case. The average cost per case can vary greatly depending on the type of case, such as DNA compared to a latent fingerprint; the nature of the case, such as homicide compared to burglary; and the number of items to be analyzed per case.

Laboratory Services

Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,734.4	1,994.1	2,059.2
72000 Travel	46.5	46.0	48.0
73000 Contractual	220.5	318.0	307.5
74000 Supplies	191.2	147.2	154.2
75000 Equipment	94.4	2.0	2.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	2,287.0	2,507.3	2,570.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	11.6	80.7	80.7
1003 General Fund Match	13.0	12.9	13.1
1004 General Fund Receipts	2,095.2	2,362.1	2,415.9
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	93.0	51.6	61.2
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	12.3	0.0	0.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	61.9	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	2,287.0	2,507.3	2,570.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	11.6	80.7	80.7	80.7	80.7
Interagency Receipts	51015	93.0	51.6	51.6	61.2	61.2
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	61.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		178.8	132.3	132.3	141.9	141.9
Total Estimated Revenues		178.8	132.3	132.3	141.9	141.9

Laboratory Services**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

No service changes.

Summary of Component Budget Changes**From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor***All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	2,375.0	80.7	51.6	2,507.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	52.8	0.0	1.2	54.0
-Fund Source Change to Correct Unrealizable Fund Source	1.2	0.0	-1.2	0.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increase I/A Authority for APSC Training RSA	0.0	0.0	9.6	9.6
FY2003 Governor	2,429.0	80.7	61.2	2,570.9

Laboratory Services

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>		
	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	30	30	Annual Salaries	1,503,659
Part-time	0	0	COLA	36,374
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	51,150
			Annual Benefits	576,833
			<i>Less 5.02% Vacancy Factor</i>	(108,816)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	30	30	Total Personal Services	2,059,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	2	0	0	0	2
Administrative Manager I	1	0	0	0	1
Criminalist I	2	0	0	0	2
Criminalist II	2	0	0	0	2
Criminalist III	9	0	0	0	9
Criminalist IV	4	0	0	0	4
Forensic Lab Supervisor	1	0	0	0	1
Laboratory Tech I	1	0	0	0	1
Laboratory Tech II	2	0	0	0	2
Latent Fingerprint Ex II	1	0	0	0	1
Latent Fingerprint Ex III	3	0	0	0	3
Maint Spec Bfc Jrny II/Lead	1	0	0	0	1
Micro/Network Tech II	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	30	0	0	0	30